

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 717

By Bailey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ernest "Ernie" Martin Cheek of Sparta.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Ernest "Ernie" Martin Cheek of Sparta; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cheek was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Sewanee to John Wilson Cheek and Sally Martin Cheek, Mr. Cheek graduated from Castle Heights Military Academy and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of the South, where he also played football and was a member of Phi Gamma fraternity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cheek served his community for over forty years as an insurance agent, first in Memphis with Travelers Insurance and then independently with his own Cheek Insurance Agency Inc., before he retired in 2008; and

WHEREAS, a devoted citizen of Sparta and White County, he was the president of the Sparta Jaycees, Jaycees National Director, and a former Jaycee's Young Man of the Year for White County; and

WHEREAS, he served as chairman of the United Fund; president of the Lions Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the White County Quarterback Club, and Baker School PTA; founder and president of Upper Cumberland Insurers; and Co-Grand Marshall of the 2022 Sparta Rotary Christmas Parade; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cheek was also a Girl Scout liaison, Sparta First United Methodist Church trustee, Caney Fork & Western Railroad board member, Highland Cemetery board

member, Sparta Housing Authority board member, Insurers of Tennessee member, and a winner of the Paul Harris Fellowship from the Sparta Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, an avid sports fan, Mr. Cheek was well known for his love of the White County Warriors and Sewanee Tigers in all their endeavors, especially any on the gridiron; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cheek had a particular penchant for parades and vintage automobiles, and he could often be found cruising down Bockman Way in his Hupmobile; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cheek was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cheek is survived by his three children, John (Jongee) Cheek, Courtney (David) Vaughn, and Julie (Mike) Anderson; his six grandchildren, Rachel Cheek, Will (Amber) Cheek, Julia (Tyler) Gaffney, Tyler Vaughn, Seth Anderson, and Caroline (Todd) Holman; his great-grandchildren, Adalee, Blaine, Tatum Jane, Walker Holman, Lake Parker, Lively Mae Anderson, Campbell Mae Cheek, and Goldie Gwen Gaffney; and his sister Rachel Cheek Smith; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his wife of fifty-seven years, Carolyn Andrews Cheek, and his sister, Sue Cheek McElroy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cheek leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Ernest "Ernie" Martin

Cheek, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Cheek.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.